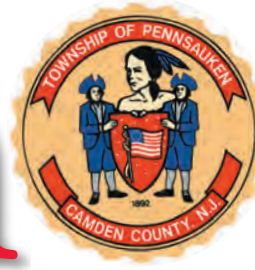


# All Around Pennsauken



VOL. 27, NO. 6

A Publication for the Community of Pennsauken

June 2022

## New Jersey Primary Election Held Tuesday, June 7



Individuals who are registered to vote by mail can deposit their completed ballot in the drop box located in the Township's municipal complex, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd., by 8:00 p.m. on June 7.

By Pam Forman, Township Clerk

The 2022 New Jersey Primary Election will take place on Tuesday, June 7. Polls are open from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

For those voting by mail, ballots were mailed out to eligible residents beginning in April. In addition to using the U.S. Mail, voters can also place their completed ballots in the drop box located in the Township's municipal complex, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd., by 8:00 p.m. on June 7.

The following is a list of polling locations for the upcoming election. Please note that several locations have changed  
*continued on page 23*

## Township Kicks Off Summer With Fireworks On June 11

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Fun, food, and fireworks will be once again enjoyed by residents at Pennsauken Township's Summer Kick Off celebration. This year's event is held on Saturday, June 11, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m., at the Pennsauken Community Recreation Complex, located at Westfield and Bethel avenues.

"We're really excited for Pennsauken's annual celebration of summer," explained Juan Vazquez, parks and recreation coordinator. "This year's Summer Kick Off is going to be great."

"I can't wait for all of the fun and fireworks on June 11," added Pennsauken Mayor Jessica Rafeh. "I invite all of our Pennsauken families and neighbors to join us as we celebrate the start of summer."

The Summer Kick Off will feature a carnival-like atmosphere, with a stilt walker, street magician, juggler, face painting, and balloon twisting. Several food trucks will

be on site for event goers to grab a bite to eat. To beat the heat, the Pennsauken Township Fire Department will have a misting station set up to help attendees cool off. Residents can also treat the mayor and other members of Township Committee to an impromptu soaking in the dunk tank. And be sure to grab a blanket or folding chair to enjoy the music played by the DJ throughout the event, which will lead into the evening's impressive fireworks finale, which will begin around 8:45 p.m.

Residents will be able to park in and around the area of the Pennsauken Community Recreation Complex for the Summer Kick Off. Officers from the Pennsauken Township Police Department will help to direct traffic, and the Pennsauken Fire Department and its EMS division will also be on site. The rain date for the event is Sunday, June 12, at the same time and location.



Pennsauken's annual Summer Kick Off celebration featuring fireworks will be held on Saturday, June 11, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

For more information, visit Pennsauken Events.com.

## County Announces \$100 Million Revitalization Of Outdoor Spaces

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Cooper River Park in Pennsauken was the site of a special announcement. The Camden County Board of Commissioners unveiled a \$100 million plan to revitalize the county's 24 parks, conservation areas and waterways.

"Parks Alive 2025 is the largest investment into the county's public parks system since the Roosevelt Administration and the Works Progress Administration," said Commissioner Jeff Nash, who also serves as the liaison to the Environmental Commission of Camden County. "These projects  
*continued on page 23*



Local officials, non-profit representatives, and community activists joined the Camden County Commissioner Board for the announcement of a \$100 million plan to revitalize the parks, conservation areas and waterways throughout the county.

# Look! inside

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Construction: x130, 131, or 132  
Code Enforcement: x134, 136, 169 or 171  
Economic Development: x108  
Housing/Resale/Rental: x145  
Mayor's Office: x152  
Parks and Recreation: x151  
Planning and Zoning: x128  
Senior Services: x152  
Tax Assessor: x112 or 116  
Tax Collector: x118, 119 or 121

### Pennsauken Country Club: (856) 662-4961

### Pennsauken Free Public Library: (856) 665-5959

### Pennsauken Public Works: (856) 663-0178

### Public Safety/Emergency Dispatch: 9-1-1

### Non-Emergency Dispatch: (856) 663-1234

### EMS: (856) 665-2323

### Fire Administration: (856) 663-1208

### Fire Prevention and Inspection Bureau: (856) 665-0774

### Police Department: (856) 488-0080

### Pennsauken Municipal Court: (856) 663-1403

### Pennsauken Animal Control: (856) 663-3058

### Camden County Animal Shelter: (856) 401-1300

### Pennsauken Sanitary Landfill: (856) 665-8787

### Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission (856) 663-0043

### Pennsauken Sewerage Authority: (856) 663-5542

### South Jersey Sanitation (Trash/Recycling Vendor): (609) 561-0441

### Camden County Board of Social Services: (856) 225-8800

### Camden County Municipal Utility Authority (CCMUA): (856) 541-3700

### New Jersey American Water: (800) 272-1325

## County Making Roadway Improvements On Sherman Avenue

Last month, Camden County began a series of roadway improvements along Sherman Ave.

Running along Sherman from River Rd. to the railroad crossing, the scope of the project includes asphalt roadway milling and paving; installation of new stormwater inlets and piping to improve drainage; improvements to handicap ramps; traffic striping, signs, and raised pavement markers; and installation of concrete curbing, as well as the replacement of in-kind driveway aprons, as

needed.

This roadwork will require the closure of a section of Sherman Ave. Residents and commuters can access detours at both Cove Rd. and Derousse Ave.

The estimated duration of the roadwork improvements is 180 calendar days from May 16, weather permitting.

Project updates and additional information can be found at CamdenCounty.com/RoadUpdates. For questions, contact the Camden County Public Works 24-hour hotline at (856) 566-2980.



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## Senior Citizen Appreciation Day Held June 9

Pennsauken Township is celebrating our great senior citizens with a special, FREE event!

Senior Citizen Appreciation Day will be held on Thursday, June 9, from noon to 4:00 p.m., at the Pennsauken Pool, 6100 River Rd. Both Pennsauken's police officers and firefighters will be grilling for the event, and members of Township Committee will be serving food to guests. Pennsauken seniors age

62 and over will enjoy a variety of fun activities, including games and musical entertainment. Plus, the pool will be open, so attendees are encouraged to bring their bathing suits!

Registration is required by Monday, June 6. To R.S.V.P., contact Juan Vazquez at (856) 665-1000 x151, jvazquez@pennsauken.gov; or Amy Schmalbach at (856) 665-1000 x152, aschmalbach@pennsauken.gov.

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## MAYOR'S CORNER Celebrating Summer And The Amazing Class Of 2022



By Jessica Rafah,  
Mayor of  
Pennsauken  
Township

What an exciting month June is turning out to be! There's so much going on in Pennsauken.

First, we have our Senior Citizen Appreciation Day on June 9 at our Municipal Pool. Our seniors asked us to put together more activities just for them, and we're going to deliver. You can find out more about this event on page 2.

Then, we're kicking off the summer season with a great party on the evening of Saturday, June 11. From 5:00 to 9:00 p.m., visitors to the Pennsauken Community Recreation Complex will find food trucks, family entertainment, and fireworks! Find out more by reading the article on this issue's front cover.

And on June 16, Pennsauken High

School's Class of 2022 will have their graduation ceremonies. It is their well-deserved day in the sun, and the entire Township Committee congratulates them on this wonderful accomplishment. I definitely want to recognize my cousin, Youssef Rafah, who will be studying software engineering at Drexel University this fall. I love you and you make our family proud!

I would like to offer some advice to these soon-to-be high school graduates, ready to begin a brand-new journey. Whether you're heading to college, beginning a career in the trades, or enlisting in the military, there will be many challenges ahead. Things will get tough, and the voice in your head will tell you that quitting would be easier. Please, don't give up! Know that you have what it takes to do everything you put your mind to.

La vida no será siempre color de rosa, y abra momentos que querrán darse por

vencidos. No se den por vencidos ustedes tienen el poder de lograr todo lo que anhelan... compruébenle al mundo que ustedes pueden ser la diferencia que este nación necesita.

There will also be people who tell you that you can't do it. They are wrong. You know who you are in your heart. Prove to the world that you can make a difference!

And while you may not notice, someone is looking up to you. Make good decisions and be that positive role model in people's lives.

I'd like to share with you a powerful quote from actor Denzel Washington: "Goals on the road to achievement cannot be achieved without discipline and consistency." Success in life requires hard work and dedication. Nothing is given to you; you have to earn it. The power is in your hands to make it happen.

And while you are striving to achieve your goals, be sure to have some fun

along the way! This is an amazing time of your life. Enjoy it!

Congratulations to the Class of 2022! You make us Pennsauken Proud!

## Shredding Event A Big Success



Almost 400 vehicles attended last month's shredding event, hosted by the Pennsauken Environmental Commission.

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### Pennsauken - Newly Renovated!

Don't miss this spacious freshly painted 3 bedroom, one bath home has been completely updated. It features a brand new kitchen with a gas stove and beautiful new flooring throughout. The walkout basement is HUGE and clean. It's divided into separate rooms for extra storage, a playroom, a workshop or a home gym. The back yard is fully fenced in! DON'T let this one get away! Asking \$179,900



### Pennsauken - END UNIT

Welcome To The Fairways. Check Out This Beautiful End Unit Overlooking The Golf Course. This Beauty Features 3 Bedrooms and 1.5 Bathrooms. Kitchen Features Beautiful Cabinets, Tile Backsplash & Granite Countertops. The Dining Room Features A Beautiful Bow Window. Living Room Features A Sliding Door Which Leads To Your Patio. Windows & Doors Replaced in 2020. Convenient Parking. Don't Miss This One Because It Won't Last Long. Asking \$199,000



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## WAGSWORLD A Better Father's Day Planned, Fighting Phone Systems, And More

By Bob Wagner,  
AAP Columnist

I am in shock! Seconds ago, I wrote June 2022 at the top of my pad, fully prepared to scribble my way into summer. Suddenly I see my last year flash before my eyes. Father's Day eve 2021. Large rambling blood clot, or clots, bounce around my leg, lung, and finally heart. I had no out of body experiences. No light in the tunnel, and no dead people asked me to lunch. It was all kind of boring, 'til the hospital trip.

The bride says I said weird stuff. I just

remember telling the doctors that if I was buying them a new boat, they should remember to call me up and invite me out on a fishing trip. I'm guessing the docs do enough cutting in the hospital that bait and cleaning fish is no fun.

So, soon it will be Father's Day again. I hope to have a party this year. Last year I had ice chips and Jell-O. This year I want a Gallos cake with extra icing. And all my little ones around me.

I will have a list with me of most of my best junk and am prepared to hear who wants what. If nobody wants my prized possessions, I will have a huge fall sale

outside the garage and invite all of you readers to come by and get a great deal on STUFF.

Back to my last month's rant, I did promise to update y'all. On Social Security, the phone still won't answer under a half hour, but people are back in the office after two years. But the folks who work there will not talk to me, as it is the bride's social security payments that were hijacked. And we, the aggrieved parties, are not to be told what is being done to catch, prosecute, or retrieve missing money. We will be notified — in due time. You can imagine how well all this sits with me.

Next week I am tilting at windmills at

the DMV. Cherry Hill, my closest and therefore, favorite location, still only lets me in by appointment, done by computers only. No phone, no in-person visits; just use your computer, if you can. It smells like self-checkout.

I am also whipping off a note to the CEO of Virtua Health, complaining about their communication system. But more on that later.

I have gone back in time over 30 years and started playing golf again. My daily exercise program is walking from the coffee pot to the TV. My heart rate, apparently, needs to go up a bit more every day. Calling Social Security, the DMV, and County court isn't what the doctor

ordered. My daily intake of pills must have calmed down my nose because I find I can breathe outside once again. So, I am trying to play a game I once was pretty good at, but now suck out loud! I will be hanging out a few times a week with the old geezer group here in Pennsauken, trying to hit the little ball far enough away so I can't find it. Then find it and hit again. The good news is I saw a lot of tree stumps on the course. They might let me carve a few faces if I ask nice.

Happy summer, all!

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## An Important Message About Swimming Pools

With the warmer weather, many look to cool off by buying a pool from a specialty store or retailer. Pennsauken's Building Department wishes to remind residents that any pools — including storable ones — that hold a depth of 24 inches of water require a building permit.

Handouts highlighting the specific requirements, as well as permits, can be

obtained at the Township Municipal Building, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd., in the Building Department office.

Pennsauken wants to make sure that when you hit the water, you do so safely. For the requirements needed before purchasing a pool (setbacks, fencing, etc.), contact the Zoning Office at (856) 665-1000 x128.

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## PENNSAUKEN JUNE PUBLIC MEETINGS

Township Committee (In Person)  
6:00 p.m. Thurs., June 2 and 16

Zoning Board of Adjustment (Virtual)  
7:00 p.m. Wed., June 1 and 15

Planning Board (In Person)  
6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 7 and 28

Environmental Commission (Virtual)  
7:00 p.m. Monday, June 20

In-person public meetings are held on the second floor of the Pennsauken Municipal Building 5605 N. Crescent Blvd. (At the corner of Rt. 130 and Merchantville Ave.)

Zoom information for Zoning Board Meetings can be found at Pennsauken.gov.

To learn more about virtual participation in the Environmental Commission Meeting, visit <https://www.facebook.com/PennsaukenEnviroComm>.

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## Rafeh, Roberts Answer Questions From Residents During Facebook Live Event



Pennsauken Mayor Jessica Rafah and Deputy Mayor Nicole Roberts participated in a Facebook Live event on May 16.

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

On May 16, Pennsauken Township Mayor Jessica Rafah and Deputy Mayor Nikki Roberts held a Facebook Live event to not only provide information on what's happening in town, but also answer questions submitted by residents.

"This online event was a great way to interact with our residents," said Mayor Rafah. "We thank everyone who participated."

"We had some great questions from the community," added Deputy Mayor Roberts. "The mayor and I were very appreciative that so many took the time out of their evenings to join us."

During the hour-long event, Rafah and Roberts spoke on a variety of topics, including how Pennsauken Police are

working with the Philadelphia Police Department to tackle the noise pollution coming from "Boom Cars," vehicles playing loud music from giant speakers; how the Township is dealing with the issue of feral cats; addressing property maintenance issues for both residences and businesses; and the work the town's over 80 full-time police officers are doing to solve crimes and maintain public safety. The duo also answered questions from residents about paving Pennsauken's streets, property taxes, and even the prospect of keeping chickens in town.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive from the Pennsauken residents who participated.

"Great to see how you addressed each issue. Appreciate you guys taking the

time to hold this meeting. It was worth it," commented Tom Havey.

"Thank you, was a good evening of questions and answers," posted Eileen Laurick.

At the end of the evening, Mayor Rafah and Deputy Mayor Roberts thanked residents for joining them; and based on the interaction from partici-

pants, indicated that more of these online events are possible in the near future.

"I want to thank you all for joining us tonight and I want to tell you what a pleasure it is to be deputy mayor of Pennsauken," said Deputy Mayor Roberts.

"We hope to do this more often, because at the end of the day, we both want to be transparent and we want to be able

to share information with our residents, even about difficult subjects," continued Mayor Rafah. "Your questions won't be unanswered. We care."

To view a recording of the Facebook Live event, visit the Township's page @PennsaukenTwp. The video will also be posted on Pennsauken's YouTube channel and will air on Pennsauken Television.



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# Summer Fun From Pennsauken Parks and Recreation

Children in Pennsauken and Merchantville can add more fun and excitement to their summer months with entertaining and educational programs offered through Pennsauken's Department of Parks and Recreation.

## Bowling

This fun camp will be at the amazing Pinsetter Bowling Center on Maple Ave. in Pennsauken. Basic bowling instruction will be provided by qualified instructors and skills competitions for prizes will be held the last day of the camp. The program runs from 10:00 a.m. to noon, Aug. 8-12, and is for kids ages 7-14. The fee is \$65 for the week and includes shoes and ball.

## Creative Theater

The very popular Creative Theater Class runs from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on July 11-15. Children, ages 7-14, will learn stage movement, vocal projection, character study and improvisational games. They will create their own story and a video performance will be shown for friends and family on the last day of class. The cost is \$50 for the week and class is run by a professional entertainer/performer.

## Dancing

Come and join the fun for an introduction to dance at DeMarco Dance Center, 177 South Centre St. in Merchantville. Camp will be from July 11-14, 10:00 a.m. to noon, for ages 7-14. This beginner class is run by a certified instructor. Cost is \$40 per person.

## Golfing

Kids ages 7-13 can learn the basic skills of the golf game. The qualified instructor will teach the children about the game, including club selection, course etiquette and the correct club grip. The program will be held at the Pennsauken Country Club, 3800 Haddonfield Rd., June 20-24, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. The fee for this program is \$50.

## Ice Skating

The Learn to Ice Skate camp will be held at the Virtua Health Pennsauken Skate Zone on River Rd. Children ages 2-15 will learn basic skating techniques for figure skating or hockey. The program is offered from 8:45 to 10:00 a.m. Aug. 1-5. Cost is \$40 per child and includes skate rental.

## Junior Fire Academy

The Junior Fire Academy will be held at the Bloomfield Fire House, 5301 Lexington Ave. Children ages 10-14 will be introduced to the work of a firefighter and develop the skills of teamwork, time management, and responsibility in a fun and education environment. Attendees will participate in short classroom sessions and

complete multiple hands-on activities and field assignments. The academy will be held from July 18-22, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday through Wednesday; and 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. Cost is \$50 per child and includes t-shirt, hat, all required materials, and safety equipment, as well as water, snacks, and refreshments. Lunch will be provided Thursday and Friday. The weeklong academy will conclude with a graduation ceremony on Friday at 3:00 p.m.

**NEW!**

## Muay Thai

Learn the basics of traditional Muay Thai kick boxing during this special camp held from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m., June 27 to July 1 at Kao Muay Thai, 7710 Maple Ave. This class is open to children ages 7 to 14. The cost is \$40 per child and includes hand wraps for participants.

## Multi-Media Art Creations

Explore an array of mediums in this art class that includes clay, fiber, paper, jewelry, and found objects. Individual expression will be highly encouraged. This class is all about thinking outside the box. Class will be held at the PYAA Field House on Elm Ave., July 18-22 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The fee for this program is \$45. For kids ages 7-13.

**NEW!**

## Nature Camp

This brand-new camp gives children ages 12 to 16 a chance to enjoy unique outdoor activities, including kayaking to Petty's Island and exploring Tippin's Pond. Nature Camp runs Aug. 8-11, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$50 per child.

**NEW!**

## Pickleball

Come learn the fun, all ages sport at Pennsauken's new Pickleball Courts on River Rd.! Pickleball classes are open to children ages 7 to 14 and will run 9:30 a.m. to noon, July 11-14. The cost is \$45 per participant.

## Sports

The Ike Willis Sports Camps are sponsored by the Pennsauken Parks and Recreation Department and are open to children ages 7 to 14. Each camp runs from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The dates and

costs for each program are as follows: Soccer, July 18-22, \$40; Basketball, July 25-29, \$40; and Baseball/Softball, Aug. 1-5, \$50. Soccer Camp is held at the Pennsauken Community Recreation Complex on Westfield Ave. Baseball/Softball Camp will be held at the field on Elm Ave. The location of Basketball Camp will be announced next month.

## Swimming

Pennsauken Township will offer a learn-to-swim program for children ages 5-11 at the Municipal Pool, 6100 River Rd. Dates for morning sessions are June 21-23 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.; dates for evening sessions are June 13-15 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The fee for this program is \$30 per child for all three days, morning or evening sessions. Certified lifeguards with CPR training will instruct both sessions.

## FOR FAMILIES

### Join The Municipal Pool

The Parks and Recreation Department is accepting membership applications and fees for the 2022 pool season. Appointments are required to sign up for the pool. To schedule an appointment, call (856) 665-1000 x0.

The Municipal Pool, located at 6100 River Rd.,

is open to Pennsauken and Merchantville residents only and all applicants must provide a photo ID, current utility bill, and birth certificate and report card for children. The pool is currently open 11:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. weekends only. After June 18, the pool will also be open from noon to 7:30 p.m. on weekdays. Pool fees and other information are available at <https://pennsauken.gov/content/pennsauken-municipal-pool> as well as through the Pennsauken Parks and Recreation Department.

## TO REGISTER

Registration for most summer programs is ongoing at the Pennsauken Municipal Building, Rt. 130 and Merchantville Ave. Forms are available at the municipal building from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Program listings and downloadable registration forms are available online at <https://pennsauken.gov/content/summer-programs>. Payment is accepted in cash, check, or money order. For more information, contact the Department of Parks and Recreation at Recreation at [jvazquez@pennsauken.gov](mailto:jvazquez@pennsauken.gov) or (856) 665-1000 ext. 151.

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## Remembering Those Who Gave All

From the flagging of veterans' graves in Township cemeteries, to various ceremonies during Memorial Day weekend, Pennsauken remembered those brave men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country.



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## EDITOR'S DESK Saying Goodbye To The Leader Of The Band



By Frank Sinatra,  
AAP Editor

We recently lost a giant; someone who meant so very much to a lot of people. It was a sudden and unexpected gut punch. This one hurts.

His name was Joe Gianfortune, affectionately known as "G." He was the leader of our band; and we are better people because of him.

While I am a Pennsauken cheerleader, I am also an unabashed "St. Pete's/Camden Catholic" kid. It's okay to be jealous. Musically inclined, my brother and I made our way to the band room at CCHS. There was G and a group of wonderfully unique and talented misfits. He let us be ourselves in all our weird and amazing glory. The quirky sense of humor readers enjoy on a monthly basis was honed within those walls; I also was fortunate enough to make some pretty

awesome lifelong friends.

And the music was special. G was a consummate professional and great musician; you may have been lucky enough to see him play at the Academy of Music, the Walnut Street Theatre, in Atlantic City for acts like Gladys Knight and the Pips, even during Mass at Saint Stephen's right here in town, where he and his sister, Nancy, enhanced the parish's music ministry. For his students, G challenged us as musicians. I will never, ever be Dizzy, Doc, or Wynton, but I loved playing trumpet for him. And I got to play in some pretty cool places. One of my favorite memories is marching down Broad St., playing music for Fancy Brigades during the Mummers Parade.

My senior year, my brother, Rob, and I would hang out in G's office on Fridays. We called it, "Shooting the..." You get the idea. Hours were spent just talking about life. It was a special time in my life, and I will never forget the lessons I learned.

Just three weeks before he passed away, Camden Catholic celebrated 100 years of musical theatre on April 30.



Joe Gianfortune, affectionately known as "G."

G and his partner-in-crime, Joe Farina, were honored at the performance, as the school unveiled the "Farina and Gianfortune Stage." A well-deserved

honor for both, but now, so much more poignant for G's legacy. G played in the pit for the show with CCHS students and alumni and received frequent visitors to his table during the reception afterwards. My brother and I made a point to go see him. We hugged. We talked. We laughed. It was later in the evening, and it had been a long day for G. He was tired and ready to go home. We told him we loved him and how much he meant to us. We said our goodbyes, never realizing how important that would be. We were lucky to have the chance.

To paraphrase from Dan Fogelberg...

"We thank you for the music and your stories of the road. We thank you for the freedom when it came our time to go. We thank you for the kindness and the times when you got tough. And G, we don't think we said, 'We love you' near enough."

Thank you to the Gianfortune family for sharing G with us for so many years. This is not a coda. The piece has not ended. It is merely a rest before the next movement. His music will continue to play in the heavens and in our hearts. God speed to our leader of the band.

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# More Than A Business: Countrywide Home Care Creates A Family By Choice

"A family by choice." That's how Anna Adler, executive director and owner of Countrywide Home Care, describes the approach of her staff to serving clients throughout Southern New Jersey.

"I wanted to create something different: a business with a huge heart," explains Adler. "I have lived in this community since I was 13 and was working in home care for over 20 years. I realized that no home health care agency really had the community in mind. I needed to create something special that truly took care of elderly and disabled clients, as well as those who care for them. I treat every aide and client like family."

In the last two and a half years, Countrywide in New Jersey has expanded to two locations, with over 400 aides serving 750 clients in places like Camden, Pennsauken, Glassboro, Gloucester, Sicklerville, Williamstown, and a variety of communities in Cumberland County. Certified Home Health Aides provide

care right in the clients' homes, assisting with bathing, toileting, ambulation, transferring clients in and out of beds and wheelchairs, grooming, food preparation, laundry, light housekeeping, and errands. The aides also provide companionship and a caring ear ready to listen.

"Our staff forms valuable connections with our clients. So many people are alone with no family and no one to talk to," says Adler. "And with staff who speak languages like Spanish, Russian, Korean, Hebrew, and Hindi, we can relate to them in their native tongues."

Countrywide also has a strong partnership with the Jewish Federation to take care of aging Holocaust survivors.

"It's such a gift to be able to do something for these people," adds Adler. "I personally meet with each survivor we care for; and each aide who cares for these clients learns about the Holocaust as part of their training."

As part of her commitment to serving the community, Adler is very hands

on with the families she serves, as well as her employees.

"We're a family and families are supposed to take care of each other," explains Adler. "We make sure that our community is fed. We get deliveries twice of month of chicken, peanut butter, and rice. We stock up the freezers for the clients and the aides. We make sure that everybody has an opportunity to get to work. If there's an emergency and an aide doesn't have transportation, we'll come get them. We also offer clients and their families an on-call service that's available 24/7, with a live person on the phone."

"I love the community, and this is what is important to me. Countrywide is my life. I will do anything for everyone. We are a business with a huge heart."

Countrywide Home Care is located at 5287 Marlton Pike, Rt. 70, Suite C, in Pennsauken. For more information, call 856-661-1000 or visit [countrywidehomecare.org](http://countrywidehomecare.org).



The staff of Countrywide Home Care: "A family by choice."



Countrywide Home Care strives to add value to peoples' lives by providing them with optimal care. By treating people with dignity, and respecting their space, privacy, and beliefs we aim to provide the best care possible. Our promise is to hire people that are not only certified and skilled, but also caring, kind, and empathetic. We are here to work and live within the community that we care for.

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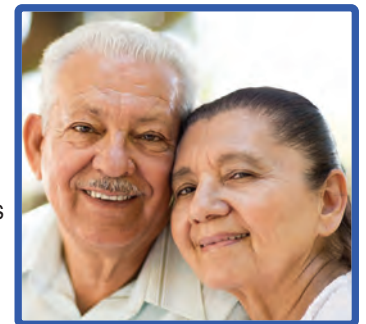


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## Pennsauken PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

By Joe Scavuzzo, Director,  
Department of Public Works

Just as Pennsauken households continue to grapple with higher fuel costs when commuting in their daily lives, the Township keeps a close watch on its fleet and fuel usage as well. Certain vehicles must remain running for safety reasons, such as our tree truck that utilizes hydraulic pumps to keep the boom functional.

As I wrote in the April article, we have begun transitioning to a scheduled pickup

## Bulk Item Collection Adjustments Offset High Fuel Costs

of bulk items. Residents will still be permitted two bulk items, each week, on your regular trash day. The only difference is that you will need to contact Pennsauken's Department of Public Works in order to be placed on the collection list for that day. In January, I reported that Seaside Waste would continue to collect residential garbage, while Public Works staff will collect the bulk items, as it was more cost-effective for us to perform this function. With the escalating cost of fuel, we have determined that it would be more efficient to follow a list of bulk item addresses, as opposed to driving down every street, each week. Simply call, Facebook message or email our office with your address and item description and we'll add you to the list.

Our office is experiencing a weekly increase in bulk item notifications, which is great! As we roll out this campaign over the next several weeks, we'll update the Public Works page on the Township website, as well as our social media postings. We are looking to complete the transition effective July 1, 2022.

On the recycling front, we've identified some grant funding to begin offering residents lids for our yellow recycling buckets. With the requirement to place

recyclables "loose" in the bucket (no plastic bags please), there is an opportunity for lightweight recyclables to blow around our neighborhoods. We will look to annually purchase these and distribute as requested, as well as with new or replacement bucket distribution. This initiative, coupled with our outreach program of keeping trash out of the recycling stream, will improve the quality and marketability of Pennsauken's recyclable material, offsetting the cost of this service. We anticipate delivery of the new lids in early June.

Camden County is sponsoring a Household Hazardous Waste Event at the Camden County Public Works Complex on June 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., rain or shine. The address is 2311

Egg Harbor Rd., Lindenwold, N.J.

Enjoy the warm weather and stay safe!

As always, if you have any questions, please reach out to our office at (856) 663-0178 or email us at [publicworks@pennsauken.gov](mailto:publicworks@pennsauken.gov).

### TALKIN' TRASH

THERE ARE NO "TRASH HOLIDAYS" DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE.

Trash and recycling collection, as well as yard waste and white goods pick up, will occur as normal, weather permitting.

Camden County is holding a Household Hazardous Waste Collection event on Saturday, June 11, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Camden County Public Works Complex, 2311 Egg Harbor Rd., Lindenwold, N.J.

For info, call (856) 858-5241.

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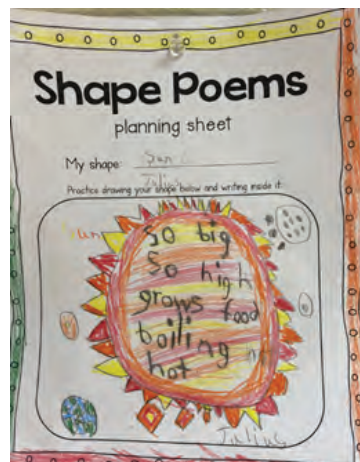
# inSchool

## Pennsauken Color Guard Are Regional A Champions



Congratulations to the Pennsauken Color Guard, who became Scholastic Regional A Class Color Guard Champions with a score of 91.9 at the Atlantic Coast Championships in Wildwood, N.J.!

## Franklin Second Graders Love Poetry



Mrs. Laverty's second grade class loves writing poems! Students have written shape poems, color poems, and acrostic spring poems. In April, our student's poetry skills have bloomed like beautiful spring flowers!

### PENNSAUKEN SCHOOL NEWS

For further information about the articles or events published in the Pennsauken School News section of "All Around Pennsauken" please contact:

Nicole Roberts, Editor  
nicole.roberts@pennsauken.net

## Great Performances At Phifer Spring Concert



Phifer Middle School Chorus performed wonderful selections during this year's spring concert. Phifer students enjoyed singing and performing for their families and friends! Great job everyone!

## Autism Awareness Day At Franklin



Autism Awareness Day was observed on April 8 at Franklin Elementary. With the help of staff and students, we raised over \$300 for the Autism Family Services of New Jersey. This was a great way to raise awareness and support a great cause!



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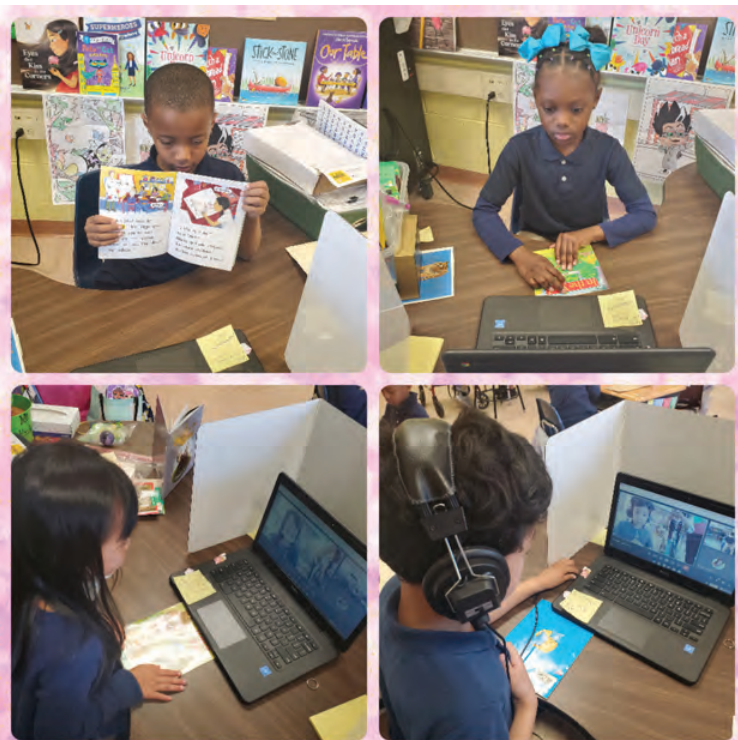
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## “Bunny Readers” A Journey Of Books With Friends



“Bunny Readers” at Carson practice their reading skills with friends in another class!

Each Wednesday, six students from Ms. Ransone’s first grade class choose a book and practice their reading in their Google Reading Studio. Students from Ms. DeMarco’s class join their new

friends via Google Meet and they rate the stories using their “Bunny Meters!”

These “Bunny Readers” are building their confidence as readers and making new friends!

## Ms. Roberts’ Class Enjoyed Learning About Cinco De Mayo



Carson students learned why Cinco de Mayo is such a special holiday!

Students are always so excited to learn about different cultures, holidays and why they are celebrated. On Cinco de Mayo, young learners at Carson Elementary were elated to learn about the origin of this holiday and why it is so cel-

ebrated!

Our Mexican-American students were very excited to share with their classmates some of the ways they celebrate Cinco de Mayo with their families each year.

## Celebrating Students With Autism: Different Not Less



A beautiful wingspan art display helped to celebrate the specialness of students with autism.

This April, rather than making everyone “aware” of students with autism, Fine School celebrated our friends with autism. The new slogan is “different not less” and leads people to understand that a person with autism is not less of a student, just different.

Each day, Mr. Honeyman read a fact about autism or highlighted a successful adult with autism each morning. People like Bill Gates, Albert Einstein, Tim Burton, Emily Dickinson, and Elon Musk are different and definitely not less!

A culminating activity for the month was for general and special needs students to have a play period in the courtyard to informally mingle while blowing some bubbles and making new friends. Teacher of special needs autism, Mrs. Latrice Chambers, created a beautiful wingspan on the wall to symbolize “stretching your wings” and flying high with different superpowers.

A Fine School we celebrate differences!

## Delair Staff Focuses On Healthy Voices



As part of Better Speech and Hearing Month, Mrs. Bayard, speech language pathologist, gifted staff at Delair with a water bottle and quick tips about keeping their voices healthy!

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## The End Of The 2021-22 School Year In Pennsauken

By Dr. Ronnie Tarchichi, MEd<sup>2</sup>, M.S., M.B.S., M.A.<sup>2</sup>, Ed.D., Ph.D., Superintendent, Pennsauken Public Schools; and the Pennsauken Board of Education: Nick Perry, President; JoAnn Young, Vice President; Lisa Eckel; Michael Hurley; Maria James; Diane Johnson; Samer John Jarboub-Rafeh; Scott La Vine; and Orlando Viera

As the school year comes to an end, we have much to be proud of and much to be thankful for in Pennsauken Public Schools. As our students finish the process of state standardized testing, we would like to congratulate them on their hard work and a job well done. Our elementary, intermediate, middle school, and high school students have truly worked so hard, and we are proud of you.

We would like to showcase some of our high school students that have earned extremely impressive scores on their SAT exams. Two students earned over 1500, which is incredible! Alexander Day and Logan Endes both earned a 1520. It is a remarkable accomplishment! Lakyrta Lassiter earned a 1410 and Andrew Nguyen earned a 1420. Sixteen students earned over a 1300 and 24 students scored over 1200. Forty-four students in Pennsauken High School earned over a 1200 on their SAT, which is absolutely amazing for any high school in the United States.

Further accomplishments of our students include our Indoor Drumline and Color Guard, who are regional champi-

ons; and Pennsauken High School's Indoor Track won a State Championship! The Board of Education and Dr. Tarchichi thank Mr. Bonkowski and the high school teachers for these remarkable academic achievements, along with Coach Tabb for his unwavering coaching of our Track team, and Mr. Franchi for his unwavering efforts with the Drumline/Color Guard. The Board of Education will be honoring our Drum Line/Color Guard at our June 14 Board meeting with dinner and championship jackets, similarly to the way we honored Indoor Track in May. These are remarkable accomplishments for our high school students and school district!

On a point of celebration, Nick Perry, Lisa Eckel and Dr. Tarchichi attended the Senior Prom on May 26 and our students all looked incredibly beautiful! Our teachers, administrators, and staff came out to support our students, and the prom at the Westin in Mount Laurel was a magical night for our students.

We are looking forward to offering our graduating seniors and eighth grade students a very special experience that was not available due to the pandemic. Both classes will be graduating at the Temple University Liacouras Center to commemorate their accomplishments. This will take place on June 16; 3:00 p.m. for the middle school and 7:00 p.m. for the high school.

Please make sure your children are

signed up for the academic and athletic summer programs we have for all of our students beginning in July. It is our goal to ensure these children strengthen their minds and bodies during our summer months.

Our superintendent, along with our Board of Education, are very grateful for the administrators who have shown their leadership, and the teachers and staff members who have shown their courage by serving our students and families dur-

ing times such as these. They have not only shown courage by doing their duty, but also have truly gone above and beyond! We are extremely proud of you!

Working together – and despite all the obstacles we have faced – we will continue to help our children grow and succeed in 2022 and beyond. We look forward to seeing you share in all the accomplishments of our wonderful elementary and secondary students in Pennsauken Public Schools.

## Karate Moves



On April 29, Franklin Elementary had the pleasure of learning martial arts moves during our Action Karate assembly. Thank you to Mrs. Banks for setting this assembly up for our students!

## Math Egg Hunt Adds Up To Fun At Franklin



Working with partners, Franklin second graders solved equations during a math egg hunt!

Students in Mrs. Jost and Mrs. Rutter's second grade class went on a math egg hunt! They searched the classroom for eggs with a special math equation inside. Then working with their partner, they had to solve the problem. It was a race to see who could solve all the math equations correctly!

## Rewards For Perfect Attendance During State Assessment



Congratulations to these Delair students for their perfect attendance during the language arts section of the NJSLA! Student names were placed into a raffle to encourage them to maintain stamina throughout the state assessment. Over 80 students eligible for the drawing! There were numerous prizes given out, but these two ladies were the lucky top prize winners!

## Fine Parents Learn Ways To Better Connect With Children

On April 28, Fine School hosted their second Parent Involvement Night of the school year. Parents were welcomed by Mr. Honeyman with an introductory presentation, and elementary teacher, Nancy Tryon, spoke about Growth Mindset and effective praise for our Pennsauken children. Parents learned about the difference between a fixed and growth mindset, person versus process praise, and the power of "yet". All of this knowledge can help parents use language with their children that promotes a growing and effort-based disposition.

Parents then transitioned to different locations to further their knowledge of the district's "Zones of Regulation" curriculum and a continuation from the fall Parent Involvement Night. Lessons and learning activities are designed to help the students recognize when they are in a particular "zone" (green, yellow, blue or red). Knowing what zone one is in when they enter the school helps



Fine School held its second Parent Involvement Night of the year in April.

students self-regulate their mindset and emotions. Self-regulation goes by other names, such as self-control, self-management and impulse control. The primary goal for all Fine teachers this year is to have students "check in" each morning to identify which zone they are in. Students have gained an increased vocabu-

lary of emotional terms, skills in reading other people's facial expressions, and calming strategies, just to name a few.

Amazing teacher presentations were conducted by Patricia Holland, Julie Hodges, Francey Lagonik, Kelsey Quillan, Corrine Patrick and Bridget Keim.

## A Special Visitor To Mr. McCormick's Class



In April, Mr. McCormick brought in a special visitor to his third grade class: his baby son! The class decided he was very cute. The baby seemed to like them too; he did not cry during his visit!





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## Fine Recognizes Students At Special Assembly



Fine students were recognized for their accomplishments during the third marking period awards assembly.

The Fine School third marking period awards assembly recognized students for perfect attendance, academic achievement, most improved student, good citizenship, and the Principal's Award, which goes to students who demonstrate good character, high achievement, and stellar attendance. Students were awarded certificates, necklaces, and a medal for the Principal's Award.

Many students were recognized, and Mr. Honeyman was proud of the students not being recognized for cheering for their classmates.

"Just because you were not recognized today does not mean that you aren't a good student," added Mr. Honeyman. "Your day to shine will come!"

Congratulations to all third marking period award recipients!

## A Spring Filled With Activity At Baldwin

The students and staff of Baldwin Early Childhood Learning Center have been busy having a BLAST in the Spring. The children are growing so quickly and have become wonderful, responsible citizens who are excited to be in school every day.

We began the month of May with a visit from the Merchantville Woman's Club. The ladies of the Club have been guests at Baldwin three times this year and it has been such a joy to welcome them. On this trip, the Woman's Club brought all of the supplies for classroom flower planters. Each classroom worked with one of the ladies to scoop the dirt, plant the flowers, and give them water. The planters will add wonderful pops of color to our outdoor areas. Students enjoyed being outside on a gorgeous sunny day and the ladies seemed to love it just as much. The planters look just beautiful!

The Pre-K also made several trips to the Pennsauken Free Public Library. Groups of students traveled on school buses for a tour, some stories, and an activity. Ms. Susan and Ms. Heather shared the love of books with the children and were gracious hosts. We are hoping to continue this relationship next year and are also hopeful that many of our families will take advantage of the incredible library resources available throughout the summer and all year long. Libraries are such treasure troves for a community,



Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge brought some of their animal friends to Baldwin during a busy and fun-filled May!

and we are so pleased that our children have gotten to see this for themselves!

We had a few more special events and activities in May. The students participated in Yoga classes, which helped our bodies and minds find calm and connection. Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge visited with some of their rescued owls and taught the children about animal habitats. Finally, we hosted an incredible Family Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) night in late May. Teachers led science experiments and projects; students enjoyed music and bubbles; and families shared food and treats.

It was another wonderful Baldwin month in an already wonderful year!

## Fine School Performs "Red, A Crayon Story"

In early April, Fine School released their first live stage performance in more than four years. "Red, A Crayon Story" was directed and produced by Fine English Language Learner teacher, Mrs. Lagonik, and mental health counselor, Ms. Hanley. This production was the product of several months planning, rehearsal, and preparation, but all of it was well worth the effort.

The play focuses on acceptance, perseverance, kindness, differences, trying our best and never giving up.

The purpose of this play was not only to learn the powerful message in the story, but to develop social skills within the students. The students who chose to participate in the play were excited and nervous but learned important skills. Acting in a play requires the students to be reliant on one another to make



Students at Fine Elementary held a live performance of "Red, A Crayon Story."

the show work. They needed to have empathy, patience, active listening, as well as build confidence to speak clearly and have their voice heard. These social skills they strengthened carry over into

the classroom.

Working as a team made this play successful and the students and staff are looking forward to the next show!

## Carson Students Enjoy The Eyes Of The Wild



Carson students were excited to have a visit from Mr. Travis, who shared fun facts and amazing animals with our students. Students learned about an African pigmy hedgehog, a milk snake, a skunk, an alligator, and a wallaby!

## Learning All About Plants In Ms. Albright's Class



Students in Ms. Albright's class learned all about the different parts of a plant and what helps them grow. They planted marigold seeds and observed their growth leading up to Mother's Day, when they gave them to their mothers!

## Delair Celebrates Math Wizards

Delair continued to celebrate Math Reflex Champions during this quarter! Students received a gift and a certificate from Principal Lawrence for achieving 100 percent fact fluency. Congratulations to these math wizards!





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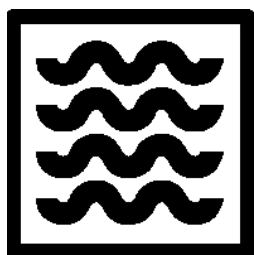


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# MPWC WATERLINES

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If you need to make payment arrangements, please contact our office immediately. Applying for an installment agreement with the MPWC will allow you to pay past due balances without accruing interest and additional penalties. You may also qualify for utility aid under the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs's Low-Income Home Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). Please visit our website at [www.mpwc.com](http://www.mpwc.com) for more information and to apply.

Our staff is standing by Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00

p.m., to assist you with repayment options by phone at 856-663-0043. If you prefer to visit us in person, be reminded that our lobby closes at 3:00 p.m. each day.

You may also continue to mail your payments to us, leave them in our drop box, or take advantage of our online or pay-by-phone systems.

If you'd like to pay online, please visit our website at [www.mpwc.com](http://www.mpwc.com) and select the yellow button that labeled "access online bill pay." To make a payment by phone, please dial 1-844-611-4016.

## Online Payments Should Be Made Via the Link on the MPWC Website!

Attention Customers: When paying your bill online, be reminded that the MPWC can only verify payments in real time if you pay through the link on our website. Please visit [www.mpwc.com](http://www.mpwc.com) and click on the yellow button that reads "Access Online Bill Pay." Payments will be posted to your account on the next business day. If you are in danger of service termination, you may make an online payment and then contact our office, where a Customer Support Representative can log on and verify that your payment is pending.

*When customers use a web browser to search for how to pay MPWC bills online, they are often directed to third party sights. Those payments can take up to 10 business days to reach our office.*

THE QUICKEST AND SAFEST WAY TO PAY YOUR BILLS IS DIRECTLY WITH THE MPWC, EITHER IN PERSON OR VIA OUR SECURED PAYMENT SITE.

Please note that if you choose to pay through your bank's online "Bill Pay" option, processing will take some extra time. Your bank will actually cut a paper check and mail it to us via USPS. Be sure to schedule your payment well in advance of your due date to avoid penalties and possible service termination.

Meetings of the Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission are held in person on the second Thursday of every month at 4:00 p.m.

The location is the G. Burton German meeting room at the MPWC's Administrative Headquarters, 6751 Westfield Ave., Pennsauken, NJ 08110. The public is invited to attend. For more information, visit our website, [MPWC.com](http://MPWC.com)

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## Consumer Confidence Report

We are pleased to report that during the past year, the water delivered to your home or business complied with or exceeded all state and federal drinking water requirements.

Our annual Consumer Confidence Report has been completed. This edition covers all testing completed from January through December 2021. We are proud to inform you that our compliance with all state and federal drinking water laws remains exemplary. As always, we are committed to delivering the best quality drinking water. We remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

The MPWC will no longer mail individual copies of the Consumer Confidence Report to customers, as it is available electronically, on our website, by following the link on your water bill, or by visiting [www.gemgrp.com/eReports/MPWC2021CCR.pdf](http://www.gemgrp.com/eReports/MPWC2021CCR.pdf)

Printed copies will be available in our office on or before July 1, 2022. If you have any questions, please contact our Customer Support Center during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

## KEEP INFORMED WITH REVERSE 9-1-1

For members of the community directly affected by water main breaks, we provide messages via our Reverse 9-1-1 notification system. To stay informed of all water emergencies that may occur within our service area, visit [MPWC.com/swift911](http://MPWC.com/swift911) to sign up for Reverse 9-1-1!

## ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2021



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## Online Payment Enhancements!

The MPWC is pleased to announce new enhancements to our online bill pay option. You may now register an account to save payment information and schedule your payments. Visit our website at [www.mpwc.com](http://www.mpwc.com) and click the yellow "Access Online Bill Pay" option to register!

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## In the GARDEN Summer Is Back: Riding The Heat Wave To Colorful Gardens

By Victoria Rose, AAP Columnist

The heat is on! It seems like it took forever to feel the warm sun. Like an old friend, summer is back this month! I am happy to enjoy seeing all the beautiful flowers. My roses are in full bloom and smell wonderful.

While your perennials and annuals are providing some wonderful color to your outdoor view, there is still a lot of work to do in the garden to get rid of overgrowth. Weeds never take a break during the warmer months. Even with mulched garden beds, you have to keep an eye out for these unwelcome guests. It's better to weed right after a good rain; the soaking makes it easier to pull the weeds out from the root. Using a trowel or garden rake is also

helpful; just make sure you're getting the entire weed, or they'll pop back up and say hello in the next few days. They do grow like weeds, after all.

While most planting should have been done in May, there are a few things that you can still put in the ground that will keep your property colorful throughout the summer. Marigolds, zinnias, four o'clocks, even sunflowers, are all good annuals to use. For veggies, carrots, radishes, beets, and potatoes do well in June.

It is SO IMPORTANT to keep your plants watered. This is especially true for your potted flowers; they dry up quickly and require water every day. When watering your potted treasures, I recommend a watering can instead of the hose. If you do need to use

the hose, be sure to have lighter force with the nozzle to avoid breaking any stems. The best time to water is in the morning, before 11:00 a.m., or in the evening, as the sun starts to go down.

When working out in the summer heat, you need to be watered too! Stay hydrated with water or Gatorade and don't be afraid to take breaks to avoid

heat exhaustion. Don't forget to use sunblock, since the sun rays can be damaging to your skin. Wearing sun hats and light colored, loosely fit clothing is helpfully too. Working early in the morning or before the sunset are cooler times to cut your grass or do some garden maintenance.

Have fun and spend time in your

yard! Eating outside is always fun and relaxing. Add some solar lights or patio lights for some atmosphere; and use citronella candles and electric fans to keep the bugs at bay. Invite some friends over or hang with your family.

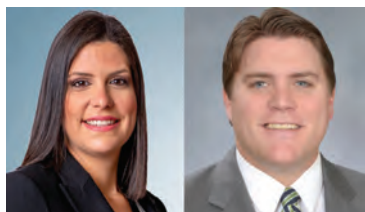
Thank you for taking the time to read my column. Until next time, be kind, be beautiful, and be happy!

## Mayors Rafeh, Brennan To Speak At PMAC Event

Pennsauken Mayor Jessica Rafeh and Merchantville Mayor Ted Brennan will be the guest speakers at the upcoming networking luncheon of the Pennsauken-Merchantville Area Chamber of Commerce, held on Wednesday, June 8, noon, at the Pennsauken Country Club, 3800 Haddonfield Rd.

Each year, the mayors of Pennsauken and Merchantville address local businesses and share updates on the economic development initiatives in their communities.

The cost is \$30 per person. PMAC



Pennsauken Mayor Jessica Rafeh and Merchantville Mayor Ted Brennan will be the guest speakers at the PMAC networking meeting on June 8.

members can R.S.V.P. by contacting Nancy Ellis at (856) 438-0833 or pmacteam@gmail.com.

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## PUBLIC SAFETY Important Bicycle Safety Tips For You And Your Family



By Pennsauken Township Police Chief Philip Olivo

This month, I will be providing an important safety tip for our residents. As the weather continues to warm up, I anticipate seeing more children and adults riding bicycles. In New Jersey, all children under the age

of 17 years old are required to wear a helmet when on a bicycle. On August 1, 1998, this helmet law was extended to include roller skates, inline skates, and skateboards. Even though it may seem like an inconvenience to wear a helmet, a properly designed and properly fitted helmet will greatly decrease your risk of a head injury. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, wear-

ing a properly designed and properly fitted helmet reduces the odds of a head injury by 50 percent, and reduces the odds of damage to the face or neck by 33 percent.

When operating a bicycle, be sure to stay to the right side of the roadway. Bicyclists should also be aware of their surroundings. You should be alert for traffic and roadway hazards. Bicyclists should follow the traffic laws, just like any motor

vehicle.

Bicycling is a great way to enjoy nature, get some exercise, or to get from point A to point B; it is also much more cost effective when compared to driving in a motor vehicle. If you take the proper safety precautions, you will not only get to reap these benefits, along with countless others, but you will also greatly reduce your risk of getting injured.

Enjoy getting outdoors and stay safe!

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## Pennsauken Police Investigate Shooting

The Pennsauken Police shared via social media that detectives are investigating a shooting that occurred on the evening of Thursday, May 12.

"On May 12, at 8:01 p.m., Pennsauken Police responded to the 2100 block of Merchantville Ave. for the report of gunshots fired. Upon arrival on scene, it was determined that multiple gunshots were fired and a residence was struck by the gunfire," stated the police department in

an online statement.

No one was injured and no arrests have been made.

If anyone has any information regarding this incident, please call the Pennsauken Police Department at (856) 488-0080 x 2015, tips@pennsaukenpolice.org or Detective Michael DiCamillo at (856) 488-0080 x 2403, mdicamillo@pennsaukenpolice.org.

## Pennsauken Town Watch Moves To Larger Space



With an increase in community participation, the June 8 Town Watch Meeting will be held in the training room at the Pennsauken Township Police Station, 2400 Bethel Ave. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, visit the "Pennsauken Town Watch" Facebook Group.

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## Pennsauken Sewerage Authority

1250 John Tipton Blvd., Pennsauken, NJ 08110

Phone: (856) 663-5542 • Fax: (856) 663-5718 • 24 Hour Emergency: (856) 662-0686

### Important Customer Information

The Pennsauken Sewerage Authority is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the sanitary sewage collection system in our service area. The sanitary sewage collection system is made up of main lines, force mains and pumping stations.

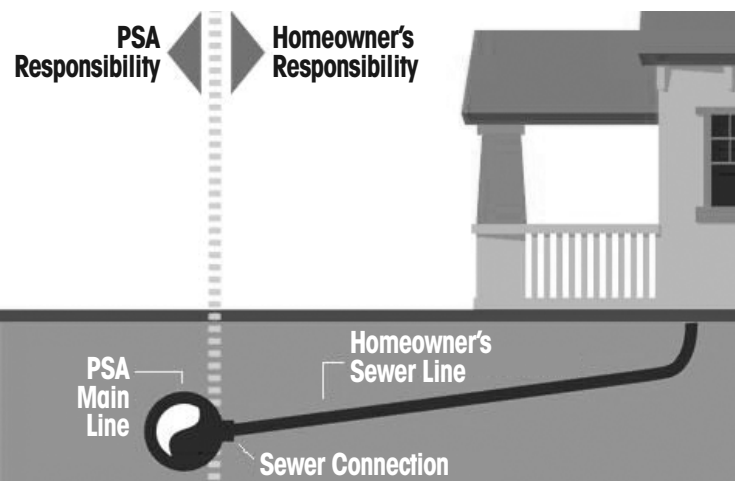
The homeowner owns and therefore is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the lateral line from their dwelling up to and including the connection to the main line.

The rules and regulations of the Pennsauken Sewerage Authority require a

back flow prevention device commonly referred to as a "back check valve" be installed whenever plumbing fixtures are located below street level, such as in the basement. PSA strongly recommends all our customers have a back check valve installed to prevent contamination in the event of a main line stoppage.

The discharge of water collected in a sump pit to the sanitary sewage collection system is prohibited.

Cooking grease poured down the drain can cause a blockage of the lateral line. Please dispose of grease properly.



## Think Twice About What You're Flushing

Baby wipes, disinfectant wipes, paper towels, and even "flushable" wipes, can't go down the toilet.

Please do not flush baby wipes, "flushable" wipes, disinfectant wipes or paper towels down the toilet.

The Pennsauken Sewerage Authority is asking residents to think twice about what they are flushing down their

toilets.

Paper towels, tissues, napkins, disinfectant wipes, and supposedly "flushable" wipes should not be flushed down the toilet.

We are seeing an increase in volume,

which is to be expected given the number of people staying in their homes as part of efforts to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

The Pennsauken Sewerage Authority remains available 24 hours a day to assist

residents. We will respond to all requests for assistance and will advise the homeowner of our findings by telephone. If you require assistance call (856) 662-0686.

### REMINDER: CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR NEXT PAYMENT IS DUE THIS MONTH.

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LASTLY YOU CAN ALSO MAKE  
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OWN ONLINE BANKING.

■  
If there is a sewer emergency, call the emergency telephone number (856-662-0686) and someone will respond to the call. If you need to contact us for information, you can email [customerservice@psewer.com](mailto:customerservice@psewer.com) and we will respond in a timely fashion.

If you are having a financial hardship and will be unable to pay your bill on time, or in full, please contact us at (856) 663-5542 to make payment arrangements. A simple 5-minute call could save you the inconvenience of being without water as well as the shut off fee which is currently \$75. Please do not send post dated checks to PSA without prior arrangements.



## County Announces \$100 Million Revitalization Of Outdoor Spaces *continued from page 1*

will address a variety of concerns, from water quality to improving accessibility and more. In addition, the Commissioners are enhancing playgrounds, greenspaces, and trails throughout Camden County. By the time these projects are complete, our county's parks will be a place for everyone, from every walk of life to enjoy."

Parks Alive 2025 impacts all 24 parks and conservation areas in the Camden County Park System. For Cooper River Park in Pennsauken, enhancements are planned for the Victims of Terrorism Memorial, as well as infrastructure upgrades to the gazebo, picnic area and parking lots. Work is also planned to revitalize the Veteran's Island trails, enhance the memorial area walkway, make ADA and Universal Design upgrades, add interactive mapping and signage, and improve both Jack Curtis Stadium Track and Field and the park's playground.

"In April of 2012, just a little over 10 years ago, the Camden County Commissioners shared a vision plan for Cooper River Park. That vision has never wa-

vered, and today we celebrate the County's ongoing commitment to make this jewel in the Camden County Park System shine even brighter," said Pennsauken Mayor Jessica Rafeh, who joined mayors from throughout the county, as well as representatives from nonprofits, and advocates for public lands for this special announcement. "One of the important things that COVID-19 taught us is how important it is to get outside. Our parks give us fresh, clean oxygen that we need," Rafeh said. "When we're outdoors, we get off our phones and our screens, connect with others, and enjoy the beauty of Mother Nature. This project at Cooper River Park offers all that and much more. Pennsauken Township Committee and our administration are so very proud to support the Board of Commissioners in their efforts to make this the best park system in the state."

This initiative has dedicated more than \$51 million to construction costs, as well as \$5 million for planning and design. The remainder of the investment is

rooted in the \$25 million water quality project at Newton Lake Park currently being completed, a \$3 million investment for an 80-acre open space parcel in Winslow and a \$10 million link trail that stretches from Camden City to the Atlantic County border in Winslow Township. In addition, \$6 million has been set aside for park maintenance and purchasing. All money and resources for this array of projects will be paid for through existing funding and no new levies will be created to finance these enhancements. The current funding mechanisms consist of the county open space funds, federal and state grants, funding from the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, William Penn Foundation, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, private donors, New Jersey Infrastructure Bank, and capital bonds from the Camden County Parks.

"Not only are these projects beneficial for the residents and visitors who access our parks, but we know that the health and welfare of our overall community is

dependent on preserved and maintained green spaces and clean waterways," Nash continued. "That's why our partners from the Trust for Public Lands, Upstream Alliance and Tri-County Sustainability are here with us advocating for this generational investment in our 5,200

acres of parkland and open space."

For more on Parks Alive 2025, visit <https://www.camdencounty.com/service/parks/parks-alive-2025>.

*Information included in this article was provided by the Camden County Board of Commissioners.*

## Primary Election Held Tuesday, June 7

*continued from page 1*

from last year's primary. Residents who have voted by mail in the past and wish to cast their votes in person at a polling

place must do so via a provisional ballot.

Should residents have any questions, please feel free to contact the Clerk's Office at (856) 665-1000 x122 or x124.

### Polling Location

Temple Lutheran Church  
Pennsauken Free Public Library  
Faith Independent Bible Church  
Martin Luther Christian School  
Pennsauken Municipal Court  
Pennsauken Senior Towers  
Homestead Youth Center  
Saint Matthew's  
United Methodist Church  
Pennsauken  
United Methodist Church  
MPWC  
Stonegate at St. Stephen's  
Cooper River Plaza

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2400 Bethel Ave.  
8001 Maple Ave.  
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## New Roles For Pennsauken Lions Club Leadership



The Pennsauken Lions Club held its May monthly board meeting at the Pennsauken Free Public Library, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd. During this time, The Pennsauken Lions Board approved the new slate of Club officers for the coming 2022-2023 Lion year, which will begin on July 1.

The Club's new leadership will consist of: Matthew J. McDevitt, president; Matthew R. Gaskill, first vice president; Bernhard Kofoet, second vice president; and John C. Niessner, membership chair.

Past Club President, Ely Mateo, not only becomes the Pennsauken Lions' new secretary and treasurer, but also assumes a greater role, as he will serve as

the Lions' District Governor for District 16 L for the upcoming year. His responsibilities will include overseeing 55 charted Lions Clubs and 1,500 club members from Trenton to Cape May County.

Next month, the Pennsauken Lions Club will host its first Christmas in July fundraising event to help generate funds for our local core programs: high school scholarships, in school vision screening programs, addressing hunger in the Pennsauken community, and the annual Angel Tree program. Please look to the July issue of All Around Pennsauken for more information on location and cost.

On June 9, Lions Leo Club Pennsauken High School senior Andrew Gyuyen will receive the Club Scholar-

ship Award; and senior Samia Permaul will receive the Lois V. Rossi Memorial Award for their academic achievements. We would like to thank our many donors; their generous contributions help to make these scholarships possible.

If you would like more information about the Lions Club, to help the less fortunate citizens of the community, or donate to our vision screening or school scholarship efforts, consider joining us! Lions meet at 6:00 p.m. on the first Monday of each month (except holidays) at the Community Room of the Pennsauken Free Public Library, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd.

Please follow us @PennsaukenLions on Facebook, or email us at PennsaukenLionsClub1@gmail.com.

## Woman's Club Of Merchantville Clothing Drive On June 21

The Woman's Club of Merchantville is again holding a Clothing Drive on Tuesday, June 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Penn Queen Diner parking lot, 7349 N. Crescent Blvd. Things that are acceptable for donation are any kind of clothing, shoes, pocketbooks, purses, belts, school bags, wallets, ties, scarves, and hats.

Also acceptable are blankets, curtains, and any household linens, stuffed animals and holiday decorations.

No item may be larger than 24" and should be in either a sealed cardboard box or a tied plastic bag. Please contact Geri at (856) 665-5468 or emdvoluter@gmail.com for more information.



Members of the Woman's Club of Merchantville celebrated spring with preschoolers at Baldwin Early Education Learning Center by planting geraniums, marigolds, and vincas in planters for each classroom.

## PHS Alumni Luncheon Held On June 15

The monthly Pennsauken High School Alumni Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, June 15, 1:00 p.m., at Marco's Restaurant at the Pennsauken Country Club, 3800 Haddonfield Rd.

Reservations are required as space is limited. Call Norma at (856) 220-5597 to reserve a space or for any questions.

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## FOODADVENTURES

## Spirit-Filled Soul Food Found At Sister's Spot



Sister's Spot at 6009 Mansion Blvd. offers a variety of delicious soul food menu items to Pennsauken.

By Rachael Shugars, AAP Columnist

Superia Ingalls is a local force to be reckoned with. She is the owner/operator of the newest hot spot in Pennsauken, Sister's Spot, located at 6009 Mansion Blvd.

The soul food locale has people coming from far and wide to taste what Superia cooks, and it all started with a little ghost kitchen in Mt. Laurel. For those who don't know, a ghost kitchen isn't a spectral location but rather an opportunity for local chefs to get their food out to the public on an online and delivery/pickup only basis. Ghost kitchens provide the community with outstanding cuisine while allowing the chef to get feedback on the items they sell to track their popularity. It was through the success of the ghost kitchen that Sister's Spot was created.

Being from South Jersey her whole life, Ingalls felt the draw to find somewhere that captured the spirit of her cooking and the vibes she wanted to send out into the world through her food. She discovered her current location in

Pennsauken and knew that this was the place to be. The location is high traffic with a variety of parking available. It is also walk up friendly for all the locals in the adjacent neighborhood. On my first visit there, it was a bustling atmosphere, with customers leaving with smiles on their face.

Jasmine, a new patron, said, "I heard about [Sister's Spot] on social media. I ordered the salmon and mac and cheese. I like that it is close to my job and hope to spend a lot of time and money here."

When you walk in, you get the sense that it's not your average restaurant. The walls are completely black, with accents of gold, greenery, and artwork. There is this deep elegance mixed with a feeling of relaxing at a friend's house and enjoying some amazing food. The décor is perfect. When I say that the bathroom is pretty enough to take pictures in, I am not exaggerating! The dining area itself is a comfortable fit for eating in and could host a smaller gathering of about 15 friends comfortably.

They have lunch specials that offer you the dinner menu in smaller portions. You get two sides and a healthy portion of cornbread with your order. I chose the baked chicken wings, collard greens, and mac and cheese, along with a banana pudding. I also got to try the candied yams and the cobbler.

The cornbread was buttery and soft, with just the right amount of crumble and bite. The greens, my absolute favorite thing, were just the right amount of wet. They weren't too salty and were cooked perfectly. The mac and cheese was cheesy and gooey and had the right amount of golden crispy on top. My son decided to take that from me and made short work of finishing it off. The baked chicken was fall apart good, juicy and well baked. The bones in the wings practically jump out

of the way so you get good, meaty bites every time.

The candied yams were almost dessert level good. This reminded me of eating a good slice of sweet potato pie, which I'm a huge fan of. The cobbler, as my son described it, was like a "nice, juicy, blueberry muffin all crumbled up." He's not far off. The crumble on the cobbler isn't too sweet and the blueberry filling is out of this world.

Superia's gift for cooking comes from

a long line of great cooks: her mother and grandmother, the latter of whom is where the name of her restaurant comes from. Her grandmother was known by many as "Sister," and the name pays homage to her and how much she has impacted Superia and her sisters. The legacy lives on.

Ingalls is also working on developing a catering menu and hopes to have something online eventually. For now, she is focusing on cultivating what she

has brought to life here in Pennsauken.

Visit this place! Order absolutely anything off the menu and you won't be disappointed. Visit them online at [www.sistersspot.com](http://www.sistersspot.com) or on Facebook at "Sisters Spot Soul Food" to check out their hours and the menu. You can also call them at (856) 226-7540.

I'd love to hear what you think so be sure to join my Facebook page, "AAP Food Adventures" and as always enjoy your Food Adventures!

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## FRIENDS of the LIBRARY Congratulations To Our Poetry Contest Winners

By Arlene Miller, Friends of the  
Pennsauken Free Public Library

Congratulations to all our poetry contest winners for this year! Our first in-person awards ceremony in the last two years was well-attended and our honorees, along with their families, were all there to accept their awards from Youth Services Librarian at the Pennsauken Library, Heather Kristian.

We had 266 entries this year, mostly from kindergartners and first graders, and most of the topics were more serious than amusing.

### Fine Elementary School

- Brianna Veletanga, "Yellow Zone"

- Sophia Tavaréz, "Happy"
- Madison Delmarr, "Worried Feelings"
- Eric Venables, "McDonalds"
- Dessiret Siri, "Red."

### Carson Elementary School

- Fadil Uzair Umar Ali, "Goldfish"
- Ricardo Perez, "Polar Bear"

### Burling Elementary

- Carter Cooper, "Green"

### Delair Elementary School

- Crystal Ruediger, "Dog Life"

### Home Schoolers

- Quintero Bibelheimer, "Real"

### Intermediate School

- Jasmine Spence, "I Can Draw"
- Chaziti Montano, "Fairies"
- Isis Muhammad, "Tuition on a Mission"

### Phifer Middle School

- Marianne Mayo, "Hiding in the Dark"
- Christine Ortiz, "Falling"
- Hoa Son, "Inner Self"

### Pennsauken High School

- Rebecca Boateng, "The Biggest Storm in Human History"

### Adult Category

- Dionna Hayes, "Refugee Roads"

Look for a display of the poets and their poems in the library soon. Thanks, too, to all the teachers who helped our winners: Julie Hodges, Jennifer Bowne, Darrah Roberts, Joeanna Landis, Karen Warner, Amber Bibelheimer, Lauren Morgan, Elizabeth Procida, Sonetta Ingram-Murrell, Debra Kobus, Rosemary Faford, and Edward Trautz.

On another note, this month's Munch and a Movie will be on Monday, June 27. As always, this event features a great movie and snacks that we'll provide. See you in the Pennsauken Free Public Library's Community Room at 1:00 p.m. June's Yoga for Balance and Posture wellness sessions will be all on site on June 3, 10, and 17 for a limited number of partic-

ipants, as well as also virtual for those of you who prefer that. Be sure to register at the library's Circulation Desk beforehand since space is limited. Bring along your large scarf or belt to get the most out of these exercises, which can be done either standing or sitting. The link to join virtually is <http://tinyurl.com/FOLbalance>.

We're still on target for the Book and Media Sale and our Bake Sale, Oct. 21-24 in the Community Room. Collection will begin in September; we'll keep you posted when that starts. Meanwhile, we still need volunteers to help sort books, bake, or just become a member of the Friends. Let us know how we can use your talent and ideas by calling us at (856) 665-5959, ext. 7.

## First Sunday Events At Pennsauken's Homes For History

Information Provided By  
The Pennsauken Historical Society

On Sunday, June 5, the Pennsauken Historical Society will have an open house day only at the Burrough-Dover House, which will be open to the public for visits and tours from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The home of the colonial Burrough family from 1710 to 1793 is located on Burrough-Dover Lane, right by the intersection of Haddonfield and Wyndam roads.

Pennsauken's historic Griffith Mor-

gan House will be open on Sunday, July 3, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Located at 243 Griffith Morgan Lane, right off of River Rd., the Pennsauken Historical Society will offer tours, as well as hold living history demonstrations.

Come one come all and see history! Bring the kids! Bring your friends!

Light refreshments will be available. There is no cost for admission. There is also free parking at both sites.

Memberships and volunteer opportunities are available, and donations are

always welcome to help Pennsauken Historical Society sustain its own mission in our community.

Visit the Griffith Morgan House or Pennsauken Historical Society pages or the group "Pennsauken History Forum" on Facebook for more details and directions, or e-mail to [pennsaukenhistorical-society@gmail.com](mailto:pennsaukenhistorical-society@gmail.com).

Both Burrough-Dover House and Griffith Morgan House are also open for tours and research by appointment.



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## GRAYMATTERS Saying Goodbye – And Thank You – To Murphy

By Judith Kristen,  
AAP Columnist

Animal lover that I am, I had decided to write this month's column about cats since June is Adopt-A-Cat Month. However, I'm sure you'll understand why I decided to write about a lovely rescued dog, and fellow cat lover, named Murphy, instead.

Murphy was born on January 3, 2012, near the outskirts of a place called Chatom, Ala. Thankfully, many animals in the south are fortunate enough to find a loving home, or they are adopted through the few services down there started and financially supported by kind-hearted people. When that can't happen, sadly they face the only other alternative: a kill shelter. Thousands of puppies, as well as older unwanted dogs and cats, go to those shelters. Some are even born there. And unless they are adopted, they will never see the light of day again. Or in the case of those newborn pups and kittens, they never get to see the sun at all. Not even once.

But, as you know, there are good people everywhere, and lots of them are devoted animal lovers who are doing their best to make those sad conditions and outcomes I just mentioned turn into a happily ever after for all our four-legged friends in need.

That brings us back to the dog named

Murphy I mentioned earlier. A beautiful golden mix of retriever and collie. He



Our dear Murphy.

was also pleasant to all of the dogs and pups and cats and kittens in the other crates and cages.

And, one day in late March of 2012, a planeload of dogs and cats, courtesy of many of those good souls I just wrote about, left Mobile and headed north to where there waited dozens of families looking forward to the wonderful, furry new addition to their lives. And, that nameless golden pup, soon to be known as Murphy, was on that plane.

A few days later, as love and luck would have it, my granddaughter was on a list that made it possible for her to be-

come the owner, mom, and friend to one of those dogs onboard that flight. That no-named retriever mix puppy became part of Krissy's family, his official name became Murphy, and he enjoyed a beautiful and much-loved life for 12 wonderful years. And in those years, Murphy welcomed "Dad," Kris's husband, Ed, when they married in 2013. Over the next few years, along came more family for Murphy to love and love him right back. Krissy and Ed's three darling daughters: Lily, now 8, Adele, now age 6, and Margaux, who just turned 4. The family also included three cats, over a dozen chickens, and the latest addition: two hedgehogs. Murphy was a part of a happy animal loving family, and he eagerly gave it back all of his life. There was no one this boy didn't love. He brought fun and joy wherever he went, from the dog parks in Philadelphia and New Jersey, to the homes of friends and family, out on a sunny vacation, or just a fun weekend at home.

And so, when age decided to put a crimp in Murphy's active life in the last year, he still held his wonderful disposition. I swear to you, whenever I would greet him, it always looked like he was smiling at me. The months moved on, the vet visited the house, and Murphy was gifted with the best of care, but more than that, the gift of compassion and genuine love. But, as the way it goes, our an-

imal friends cannot live as long as we wished they could, and when Murphy's time came, it was in his eyes, and while I'm sure he didn't want to leave his family, they were all aware, including Murphy, that it was his time to leave his love and memories with his family and build a new life up at The Rainbow Bridge.

And on May 2, 2022, that is exactly what happened.

Murphy leaves behind thousands upon thousands of treasured memories, fun and funny stories, and children who were

taught well by him to be caring and loving to all, and at all times to be the compassionate yet strong voices for those who cannot speak for themselves.

A better legacy Murphy could not leave.

Dog Bless.

Your friend, and Murphy's grandmother ~ Judy

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\*Not all employees pictured are licensed & qualified to make funeral arrangements, embalm or conduct funerals.



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## Working To Keep Pennsauken Mosquito Free

Warm weather has finally come to the area and with it the scourge of mosquitoes. Mosquitoes are not only annoying, but can carry diseases such as West Nile and Zika viruses. Breeding grounds for mosquitoes are anywhere there are still waters. Common breeding areas include bird baths, old tires, or open containers such as cans, jars, and bottles that can hold as little as an ounce of water. Hollow trees, water gardens, ponds without fish, and other large bodies of standing water are culprits as well. Even wading pools and drainage ditches can be hosts for mosquito larva.

Each summer, Pennsauken Township launches an aggressive campaign to remove stagnant water in abandoned pools and ponds. Each property that has an abandoned pool or pond will be posted and given notice to remove the water. If they do not, then Public Works will pump out the water and a bill will be given to the owners, followed by a lien if the bill is not paid. The Camden County Mosquito



Each summer, Pennsauken Township continues its aggressive campaign to remove stagnant water in abandoned pools and ponds to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds. Photo credit: Camden County.

Commission will treat any residual water left after the pumping has been completed.

To report a standing body of water in an abandoned pool or pond, please contact the Township's Building Department at (856) 665-1000, ext. 145.

Here are some steps you can take to help keep your property mosquito free:

Dispose of any containers in your yard that may collect water. Fill in holes in trees and stumps that hold water. Drill holes in the bottom of tire swings, recycle containers, and trash cans for drainage.

At least once a week, empty standing water from containers, including bird feeders. Make sure your gutters are clean and the water is not pooling in them. Turn over wading pools, wheelbarrows, and uncovered boats so they cannot accumulate water.

No matter how tight a cover is, they can accumulate water on top of the cover or its folds. Check them and remove any water found there. If you have a pool that you are not using, clean and chlorinate it.

With a little time, effort, and vigilance, you can eliminate mosquito breeding grounds from around your home, which will allow you to enjoy the outdoors.

For more information on mosquito

prevention, contact the Camden County Mosquito Commission by calling (856) 566-2945 or e-mailing [skeeters@camdencounty.com](mailto:skeeters@camdencounty.com).

## AMVETS Yard Sale On June 11

AMVETS Post 101, located at 519 June Rd. in the Delair section of Pennsauken, is hosting a community yard sale on Saturday, June 11, from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Tables are \$20 a person, \$15 for veterans. Interested parties can call (856) 663-8950, Monday through Friday, noon to 4:00 p.m., to reserve a table.

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**Butter Pecan Iced Coffee:** Back by popular demand, enjoy the tasty flavors of butter roasted pecan and sweet cream combined with our Original Blend Iced Coffee. The Butter Pecan flavor can also be added to hot coffee, espresso drinks, Frozen Coffee or Frozen Chocolate!

**Sunrise Batch Iced Coffee:** This bright and balanced medium roast is back to keep you cool this season! Featuring a blend of beans sourced from Kenya and Latin America, this smooth and full-bodied coffee includes notes of cocoa and toasted nuts.

**NEW Tomato Pesto Grilled Cheese:** Served hot, this sandwich features oven-roasted tomatoes, a vibrant, nut-free pesto spread and melted white cheddar cheese.

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## Stamp Out Hunger Collects Over 178,000 Pounds Of Food

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

The largest one-day food drive in the country continues to make a huge difference in the lives of people in need.

The Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive was started by the National Association of Letter Carriers in 1993. In that time, over 1.8 billion pounds of food has been distributed to food banks, pantries, and shelters across the country. Locally, the Food Bank of South Jersey, which has its headquarters in Pennsauken, was the site of the campaign's kick-off event last month.

"For us here at the Food Bank of South Jersey, this drive has been incredible," said Lavinia Awosanya, chief development officer for FBSJ. "It helps us to get through the hard summer months."

"In our region, one out of seven adults are food insecure. One in five children face hunger every single day. That is unacceptable," added Fred C. Wasiak, FBSJ president and CEO. "Hunger is real, and that is why this food drive is so crucial."

"COVID has wrecked havoc on food banks," said Brian Thompson, business agent for the National Association of Letter Carriers. "I'm actually excited, just like all the other carriers and branch



The Food Bank of South Jersey was joined by the National Association of Letter Carriers and the United States Postal Service to help kick off the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. This year's campaign collected 178,788 pounds of food.

managers, to help the food banks get back in stock."

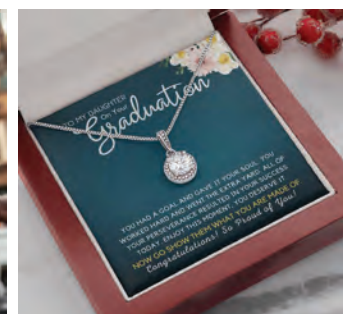
On May 26, the Food Bank announced the totals for this year's drive: 178,788 pounds of food. This collection will be distributed by the FBSJ to residents in Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Salem counties.

"And the grand total for #Stamp OutHungerSJ 2022 is 178,788 pounds!

That's a whopping 148,990 meals for our neighbors in need!" wrote the Food Bank of South Jersey in a post on social media. "THANK YOU to everyone who donated and THANK YOU to our partners at the National Association of Letter Carriers and US Postal Service for another INCREDIBLE drive!"

For more information on the Food Bank of South Jersey and how individuals and organizations can help, visit [FoodBankSJ.org](http://FoodBankSJ.org).

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# inBooks

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Visit <https://tinyurl.com/pfplbookclub>

to fill out a survey so that you can let us know where and when you would like to meet, and what types of books you are interested in reading. Thank you!

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856-665-5959 [www.pennsaukenlibrary.org](http://www.pennsaukenlibrary.org)

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*The Friends of the  
Pennsauken Free Public Library*

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## June Library Events

For more information, or to register for Adult Services programs: call (856) 665.5959 ext. 3 or email [askalibrarian@pennsaukenlibrary.org](mailto:askalibrarian@pennsaukenlibrary.org).

For more information or to register for Youth Services programs: call (856) 665.5959 ext. 6 or email [youthservices@pennsaukenlibrary.org](mailto:youthservices@pennsaukenlibrary.org).

### Virtual Events

- Yoga for Posture and Balance (Adults) – Fridays, 6/3, 6/10, & 6/17; 10:30 a.m. The Friends of the Pennsauken Library invite you to join us for Yoga. These hybrid classes will be held virtually via Zoom, with unlimited capacity, and in-person with attendance limited to 20. Registration required. <https://tinyurl.com/FOLbalance>.
- Animal Crossing Open Play (All Ages) – Monday, 6/6; 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The Isle of PL welcomes players of all ages! To visit add PFPL's Nintendo Friend Code, SW-3902-1262-4235, visit your ACNH airport, and select "online play" to find us. Nintendo Online subscription required for online play.
- LGBTQ+ A to Z (Teens & Adults) – Thursday, 6/23; 6:30 p.m. Celebrate Pride Month by joining Piscataway Public Library's Carina Gonzalez as she highlights and defines essential LGBTQ+ terminology. Attendees will leave with a more well-rounded and in-

formed understanding of LGBTQ+ identifying people and subject specific terms. Registration is required at <https://tinyurl.com/pfpllgbtq>.

### In-Person Events

- Yoga for Posture and Balance (Adults) – Fridays, 6/3, 6/10, & 6/17; 10:30 a.m. The Friends of the Pennsauken Library invite you to join us for Yoga. These hybrid classes will be held virtually via Zoom, with unlimited capacity, and in-person with attendance limited to 20. Registration required. Please call the library to reserve an in-person spot.
- Access Navigator (Adults) – Tuesdays, 6/7, 6/14, 6/21, & 6/28; 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The library's Access Navigator will be available to provide one-on-one help with computer skills, resume building, job searching, and more. Please call to make an appointment.
- Drag Queen Storytime (All Ages) – Thursday, 6/16; 6:00 p.m. PFPL's Youth Services Department invites you to join our special guest, Astala Vista, for her favorite stories, a craft, and a FABULOUS time! This one-of-a-kind event is a great way to teach kids about Pride and inclusivity during the month of June. Seating is first come, first served, with seating priority given to children.
- DIY Pride Rainbow Wreath Workshop (Teens & Adults) – Saturday, 6/18;

11:00 a.m. Join us in celebrating Pride Month with a bit of colorful fun! In this craft session participants will make their own DIY rainbow shaped pom-pom wreaths to show off craft skills and allyship. Advance registration is required: <https://tinyurl.com/pfplrainbow>.

- Pride Storytime (All Ages) – Tuesday, 6/21; 11:00 a.m. Join Ms. Susan from the Youth Services Department for a special storytime celebrating Pride Month!
- Summer Reading Kickoff (All Ages) – Saturday, 6/25; noon to 2:00 p.m. Join PFPL's Youth Services Department to celebrate this year's Summer Reading program, Oceans of Possibilities! Enjoy character meet-and-greets, face-painting, music, food trucks, and activities, and don't forget to sign up to log your summer reading activity!
- Summer Reading Registration Week (All Ages) – 6/27 to 7/2. Stop by the Youth Services desk to register for PFPL's Summer Reading Program through Beanstack so you'll be all set to start logging your reading when the program officially begins on 7/5. Get a free prize just by registering.
- FOL Munch and a Movie (Adults) – Monday, 6/27; 1:00 p.m. The Friends of the Pennsauken Library's monthly afternoon film series is back! Join us in the Community Room for a screening of June's movie. Registration required.



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## DEATHNOTICES Remembering Special Community Members

John Patane, former director of the Pennsauken Free Public Library, passed away on Tuesday, May 3, 2022. He was 78.

Patane was the beloved husband of Rosanne, devoted father of Kevin (Rebecca) and Jenny (Eric), and loving grandfather of Christopher and Michael. He is also survived by sister, Ann, and several nieces and nephews.

John was born and raised in Canastota, N.Y. He was a graduate of Villanova University and Syracuse University, where he earned a Master's Degree in Library Science.

John served as library director in various locations, most recently at the Pennsauken Free Public Library.

John enjoyed bowling, music, his dogs



Patane

and cats, corny jokes, and most importantly, his family. He was a lifelong Dodgers and Lions fan. John was a community leader through his many works of service, including participation in Rotary Club and Kiwanis Club. While in Pennsauken, he served as Rotary Club president.

A memorial service to celebrate John's life will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made in John's memory to the Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library, 5605 Crescent Boulevard, Pennsauken N.J., 08110.

### Phyllis Rondet

On Thursday, May 19, 2022, Pennsauken resident Phyllis Rondet joined her late husband and soul mate, Daryle Curtner, at the



Rondet

eternal poker game in the sky. She knows Ernie Histing will also be at that card table.

Phyllis worked for FMC Corporation for 36 years. Soon after being hired there, she enrolled at Rutgers University in Camden and graduated magna cum laude with a dual degree in Business and Psychology. After earning her degree, she taught Computer Science for eight years at Rutgers' night school. Toward the end of her tenure at FMC, she assumed a project manager position in Princeton. She was "persuaded" to retire in 2009 with "an offer I couldn't refuse."

For several years, she was a guest and volunteer at VFW Post 1270 in Pennsauken. In 2007, she was able to reinstitute the Ladies Auxiliary charter and was the elected treasurer for the Auxiliary every year since. She also was instrumental in reinstating the charter for AMVETS Post 101 Ladies Auxiliary in 2013 and was the treasurer there as well. Phyllis was also a member of the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Unit 372 in Cherry Hill.

In her spare time, she enjoyed playing poker, watching the Eagles and the Phillies, reading, playing the piano, visiting "her" island of Barbados, and just having fun.

Phyllis is survived by her devoted daughter Fran and "son" Dave Kline, of Grand Bay, Ala.; her best friend, confidant, and loving sister, Carole

Trowbridge of Stowe, Vt.; her grandchildren, Samantha Miller and Nicholas Kline; two great-grandsons, John and Jaxson, and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made of VFW Post 1270 Auxiliary, 2324 Penn St., Pennsauken, NJ 08110.

## Contractors Needed For Lend A Hand Program

Pennsauken Township's Lend A Hand Program is looking for qualified contractors willing to assist residents with serious housing code violations that can be danger or cause injury to occupants.

Interested parties must meet the following requirements:

- Certificate of current insurance
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- New Jersey contractor's license registration certificate

- W-9, request for taxpayer identification number
- Contractor's certification form
- New Jersey Lead Safe Work Practice certification
- U.S. EPA Lead Safe Certified, contractor's certificate

Interested and qualified parties are asked to contact Elwood Martz, Lend A Hand Program coordinator at (856) 665-1000 x104 or emartz@pennsauken.gov, for an application.

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## inSports PHS Student Athletes Head To The Next Level

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Last month, three Pennsauken High School seniors made commitments to take their academic and athletic talents to the collegiate level: Neveah Terrell, Samia Permaul, and Ebony Johnson.

"It is one of the greatest privileges and honors of an athletic director to watch their student-athletes grow, develop, compete, and earn the opportunities to play their sport that they love at the next level," said Billy Snyder, Pennsauken Public Schools athletic director. "We congratulate Neveah, Samia, and Ebony on their hard work and dedication and wish them nothing but success in college."

Neveah Terrell will be attending the University of Hartford, majoring in Psychology, and playing softball for the Hawks. New to Pennsauken this year, Terrell has been an amazing



Terrell

teammate and leader, playing a variety of different positions, including pitching, outfield, and shortstop. She thanks her "pops," mom, and sister, for all of their sacrifices, as well as her coaches and teammates at PHS, who have made her feel welcome in her short time with the Indians.

Samia Permaul is headed to Stockton University to study Biochemistry, either as a path to Pre Med or Pre-Dental. After losing her ACL in the beginning of the fall season and a grueling and impressive eight-month rehab, Samia will have an opportunity to try out for their field hockey and lacrosse teams. Samia has a 4.3 GPA and is 11th in her class. She also serves as student body president for the Class of 2022, is a member of four honor societies, the psychology club president, and is part of the Cooper medical pro-



Permaul

gram. She thanks her parents, family, coaches, and teachers for their support and guidance.

Ebony Johnson will be attending Easter University, majoring in Biology and playing basketball and possibly track and field for the Eagles. Ebony is a three-sport student-athlete at PHS, and is captain of the volleyball, basketball, and track and field teams; she is also a nationally ranked pickleball player, who competes all across the country. Ranked fourth in her class with a 4.3 GPA, Ebony is looking at a Pre Med track in college. She thanks her mom, sister, family, friends, and coaches for helping her achieve her goals.

Congratulations to these great student-athletes and we look forward to seeing amazing things from all of you in college!



Johnson

## Softball Event Raises Funds To Fight Cancer

On Saturday, June 4, a special softball tournament will help raise funds for the fight against cancer.

Kristian's Softball Classic runs from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Walt Nicgorski Field, located at Powell and Collins avenues. The free event is put together by Kenneth Allen Thomas for his special needs son, Kristian, who is battling

AMKL-leukemia.

This free event features a variety of teams playing in a softball tournament, including Pennsauken police and firefighters. There will also be food and a game truck. All donations will go to benefit The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

For more information, visit [KennethAllenThomas.com](http://KennethAllenThomas.com).

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## PYAA SPORTS PYAA Football And Cheer Registration Ongoing

Registration for Pennsauken Youth Athletic Activities (PYAA) fall football and cheerleading is held every Tuesday and Thursday, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., and Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to noon, at the PYAA Field House, 3501 Elm Ave., in Pennsauken.

PYAA will host a free camp from June 27 through July 28. Participants must be signed up by June 21 in order to take part.

All participants must be registered by Thursday, Aug. 4, or they will not be able to participate in the fall season.

### Volunteer Coaches Needed

PYAA is looking for volunteer coaches

for our upcoming fall football season. Ideal candidates should have some knowledge of the game and undergo a mandatory background check.

A head coach is also needed for the 75-lb. team (ages 5-6). Coaching experience is required. Important qualities include leadership, patience, fairness, as well as open mindedness. Candidates must also be able to complete administrative tasks, including completing league paperwork. Background checks are mandatory.

For more information or to express interest, contact Coach Chris at (609) 332-9266 or Coach Will at (856) 882-9377.

## Come From Behind Win For 4X400 Relay



The PHS girls came from behind in exciting fashion, winning the 4x400m relay at the Burlington County Scholastic League Track and Field Divisional Championships during the final leg!



## ANIMAL CONTROL

Information  
Provided By  
New Jersey  
Animal Control

With many people continuing to work from home, residents have the unique opportunity to witness nature and the birth of new wildlife in their area. So, how do we live in harmony with the wildlife

that surrounds us in our neighborhoods?

First, and foremost, the spring season is when most animals give birth to their babies. Although many animals, such as raccoons and fox, are nocturnal in nature, seeing wildlife out during daytime hours does not necessarily mean the animal has rabies. In most cases, the animal is seeking

one of three things: food, water, or shelter. Nursing mothers especially need extra food to produce enough milk to feed their young.

There are things that residents can do to prevent wildlife from damaging their homes and property. Residents should be vigilant with home repairs and maintenance,

as well as keeping your lawn mowed short and your trees trimmed back from the house. Unsecured areas of your home and tree limbs touching your roof provide easy access to your attic space, where animals can create safe nesting areas. Piles of debris or trash provide shelter for animals in your yard.

In addition, bird feeding and feeding of feral cats provides food sources for wildlife. When feeding becomes excessive, many townships consider it to be a nuisance. Creating a nuisance can lead to the issuance of tickets and subsequent fines in some cases.

What do you do when you see wildlife on your property or in your neighborhood? If the animal looks injured or is displaying signs of illness (staggering or erratic wandering, discharge from eyes or mouth, matted hair, etc.), DO NOT ap-

proach the animal. Please call the non-emergency number for the Police Department, (856) 663-1234, or Animal Control at (609) 685-3384.

If the animal is not injured and is not exhibiting signs of rabies, give it space. They may just be looking for food and will most likely move on and continue to do what is in their nature to do. However, if you feel the animal is causing an issue in your neighborhood, please reach out to Animal Control directly regarding trap-and-relocation services. Trap-and-relocation services are considered a private service and are not covered by the Township. However, residents are provided with discounted fees to help alleviate the costs.

To report a lost or found animal, or for other animal related questions, please reach out to New Jersey Animal Control at (609) 685-3384, [njacoffice@gmail.com](mailto:njacoffice@gmail.com),

## Pennsauken Township Launches Community Cat Trap Rental Program

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Pennsauken Township is sponsoring a trap rental program to help residents manage the community cat populations in their neighborhoods.

Traps are available by appointment only, Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., at the Township Municipal Building, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd., Pennsauken, NJ 08110. During the ap-

pointment, residents will receive instruction on the proper use and deployment of the trap. Also at that time, individuals must provide proof of residency in the form of a valid photo ID, as well as a recent household bill.

Residents who participate in this program are responsible for maintaining and operating the trap; humanely capturing community cats on their property; se-

curing appointments for the cats they trap to be spayed/neutered; and before and after care of the animal.

If a Township trap is lost, stolen, or damaged, a fee will be assessed to the resident so that the trap can be replaced.

To set up an appointment to obtain a trap, visit the Township's website at <https://pennsauken.gov/content/trap-rental-submission-form>.



## inSports Team At Country Club Takes Facility To Next Level

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

In 1982, Pennsauken Township's municipal government purchased Iron Rock Golf Course and transformed it into the Pennsauken Country Club. In 2019, Township Committee began to make an extensive evaluation of the facility and implemented changes to move the facility forward and create long-term sustainable growth. Now, 40 years later, the Pennsauken Country Club has become one of the most popular and well-maintained public golf courses in South Jersey. And the Club's new management team is looking to take things to the next

level for both members and guests.

"The staff at the Pennsauken Country Club is an absolute 10," explained Pennsauken Committeeman Marco DiBattista. "We've learned from what we've done in the past and are putting the work in so that the Pennsauken Country Club is truly something special."

Pennsauken resident Kevin Morita took over as director of operations in 2020. After living in town for over three decades, Morita, a member of



Morita

Pennsauken High School's Class of 1996 who has over 30 years of experience in the golfing industry, is excited to be able to help grow a place that holds a lot of great memories.

"I grew up in Pennsauken and everything I learned about golf was right here at the Pennsauken Country Club," said Morita. "It's a dream come true to be able to enhance this great asset that the Township has."

Kevin's role is to oversee the entire facility, working closely with the golf staff, maintenance crews, and food and beverage vendor. And working together is key. "We're a complete team here at the Pennsauken Country Club," explains Morita. "We work in unison to produce the best product for residents and other public golfers."

Zac Casey joined the Pennsauken Country Club in fall of 2021 as the new director of golf. With over 12 years of experience in the industry, Zac's focus is the day-to-day golf operations. The Club sees approximately 200 to 300 rounds of golf daily during its peak season, as well as numerous weekly leagues and around 20 tournaments a year; Casey works to ensure that each golfer walks away with a positive experience.



Casey

"We have a great product that we offer here," said Casey. "Golf is all about hospitality. We make sure that everyone enjoys themselves while they're at the Pennsauken Country Club. If they come here once, most likely they'll be coming back."

Morita and Casey both stressed the importance of playing conditions at the Pennsauken Country Club. It's a source of pride with the staff; and the person in charge of making sure the turf is top notch is Eli Rodriguez, the golf course superintendent.

"The golf course at the Pennsauken Country Club is a gem that I'm polishing for the Township," explained Rodriguez, who joined the team in October 2021 and has over 30 years of experience under his belt. "We have an awesome crew and we're taking things to a level that you've never seen before."

In addition to maintaining superior course conditions, the Pennsauken Country Club staff has added new amenities, including bag drop service and club cleaning. Improvements have been made to the Pro Shop, including new and improved merchandise. The Club has also formed a strong partnership with First Tee - Greater Philadelphia, a non-

profit that teaches children important life skills through purposed golf lessons.

These enhancements and new vision, combined with the course's high visibility along Haddonfield Rd., helps to build upon the strong foundation of the Pennsauken Country Club for years to come.

"I would put our playing conditions up against any other local golf course," said Morita. "We're one of the best deals in the tri-state area."

"Looking at the numbers from our online booking, the Pennsauken Country Club leads our competition in a lot of categories. We are the premier public golf course in this area," added Township Committeeman DiBattista. "These improvements aren't just for golfers; they benefit the entire community. The revenue generated above the Club's operating costs go directly into the Township's general operating budget, which helps the Pennsauken taxpayer. With this team and our approach, the Pennsauken Country Club has an amazing future."

For more information, visit [pennsaukencc.com](http://pennsaukencc.com) or follow the Pennsauken Country Club on Facebook and Instagram.



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